

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 01475 261135Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
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C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1475

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PROG, MILI, UNSC, PLO, IS, LE, XF
SUBJ: UN DECISION TO PERMIT RESUPPLY OF PALESTINIANS BEHIND
UN LINES

REF: USUN 2140

SUMMARY: CONTRARY TO IMPRESSION CONVEYED BY GUYER AND JONAH
(REFTTEL), UNNY HAS SENT GENERAL INSTRUCTION TO SIILASVUO
AND ERSKINE TO PERMIT NON-MILITARY SUPPLIES TO PASS THROUGH
UNIFIL LINES TO PALESTINIANS NOW PRESENT IN UN AREA OF OPERATIONS.
SIILASVUO AND PRIETO ARE GRAVELY CONCERNED AND ARE WORKING
WITH ERSKINE TO TRY TO GET DECISION REVERSED. THEY REQUEST
OUR HELP AND, MOST IMMEDIATELY, URGE DEPARTMENT OR USUN TO
ASK GUYER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS MAY 26 NOT TO INFORM PLO
REP TERZI OF ABOVE INSTRUCTION UNTIL THERE HAS BEEN FURTHER
CONSULTATION WITH US. END SUMMARY

1. SIILASVUO ASKED ME TO SEE HIM URGENTLY AM MAY 26.

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AFTER GIVING ME RUNDOWN ON MEETING WITH ARAFAT, AND JONAH -
ERSKINE AGREEMENT REPORTED PREVIOUSLY (JERUSALEM 1443),
HE SAID TO HIS ASTONISHMENT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED INSTRUCTION
FROM UNNY (ALSO SENT ERSKINE FOR ACTION) TO LET NON-MILITARY
SUPPLIES PASS THROUGH UNIFIL LINES TO PALESTINIANS IN UN
AREA OF OPERATIONS. CABLE DIRECTED THAT "CONTINGENT COMMANDERS"
WERE TO BE SO INFORMED FORTHWITH AND THAT PLO REP TERZI WOULD

BE INFORMED BY WALDHEIM MAY 26. IF ASKED, SIILASVUO AUTHORIZED TO FILL IN ISRAELIS.

2. SIILASVUO MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) INSTRUCTION IS CONTRARY TO SPECIFIC COMMITMENT BY WALDHEIM TO BEGIN UN WOULD PREVENT INFILTRATION. ISRAELI REACTION WOULD BE SHARPLY NEGATIVE AND COULD COMPLICATE JUNE 13 WITHDRAWAL.

(B) IT IS ALSO CONTRARY TO STRONGLY-HELD VIEWS OF ERSKINE AND CUQ THAT SUCH COOPERATION WOULD BE ONLY FIRST STAGE IN ADDITIONAL CONCESSIONS WHICH WOULD BE DEMANDED BY PLO AND WHICH WOULD INCREASINGLY COMPROMISE UNIFIL IN DISCHARGE OF ITS MISSION.

(C) MOREOVER, IT IS CONTRARY TO SPIRIT OF MAY 24 GOL-PLO FIVE-POINT AGREEMENT AND REPORTED ANCILLARY UNDERTAKINGS BY PLO.

(D) RATHER THAN ASSIST UNIFIL IN ITS MISSION, RESUPPLY, IF PERMITTED, WOULD ONLY SERVE TO STIMULATE INFILTRATION.

3. SIILASVUO AND ERSKINE HAVE AGREED TO SUSPEND IMPLEMENTATION OF INSTRUCTION PENDING OUTCOME OF THEIR REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION. IN MEANTIME, SIILASVUO URGENTLY REQUESTS WE ENSURE WALDHEIM CONFIDENTIAL

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OR OTHER UN OFFICIAL DOES NOT REPEAT NOT INFORM TERZI OF INSTRUCTION AS PLANNED MAY 26.

4. IN ADDITION TO ABOVE, SIILASVUO BELIEVES GOL WOULD NOT AGREE TO RESUPPLY OF PALESTINIANS BEHIND UN LINES, ESPECIALLY AFTER MAY 24 FIVE-POINT AGREEMENT WITH PLO AND HOPEFUL DIRECTION IT POINTS IN. SIILASVUO BELIEVES UNIFIL SHOULD ESCORT ALL PALESTINIANS IN UNIFIL'S AREA OF OPERATIONS NORTH OF THE LITANI OR TO TYRE POCKET. HE DOES NOT AGREE TO EQUATING PALESTINIANS BEHIND UN LINES (WHOM ERSKINE CONSIDERS AS RECENT INFILTRATORS) WITH CHRISTIANS AND SHIAS. WHATEVER ONE'S VIEW OF THE LATTER, THEY ARE SOUTH LEBANESE WHO HAVE LONG LIVED IN THEIR PLACES OF RESIDENCE.

5. IF DEPARTMENT AGREES TO ASSIST SIILASVUO AND ERSKINE, HOPE THIS CAN BE DONE SO AS NOT TO WORSEN SIILASVUO'S ALREADY STRAINED RELATIONS WITH GUYER AND JONAH. PERHAPS DEPARTMENT COULD SAY THAT AFTER REFLECTING ON MAY 25 CONVERSATION, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF GOL-PLO FIVE-POINT AGREEMENT, WE BELIEVE RESUPPLY WOULD BE A MISTAKE, AND WOULD PUT UNIFIL ON SLIPPERY SLOPE. IN EVENT WALDHEIM OR GUYER RESIST TO REVERSING THEIR DECISION, PERHAPS WE COULD URGE THEM TO CONSULT

GOL PRIOR TO ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

NEWLIN

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